

A Civil Action (1998)

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Overview

Director:

[Steven Zaillian](#)

Writers (WGA):

[Jonathan Harr](#) (book)

[Steven Zaillian](#) (screenplay)

Release Date:

8 January 1999 (USA) [more](#) [view trailer](#)

Tagline:

Justice has its price.

Plot:

The families of children who died sue two companies for dumping toxic waste: a tort so expensive to prove, the case could bankrupt their lawyer. [full summary](#) | [add synopsis](#)

Awards:

Nominated for 2 Oscars. Another 5 wins & 8 nominations [more](#)

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[Gibson's Payback](#) (From [Studio Briefing](#). 9 February 1999)

[Oscar In Love](#) (From [Studio Briefing](#). 9 February 1999)

Cast

John Travolta	...	Jan Schlichtmann
Robert Duvall	...	Jerome Facher
Tony Shalhoub	...	Kevin Conway
William H. Macy	...	James Gordon
Zeljko Ivanek	...	Bill Crowley
Bruce Norris	...	William Cheeseman
John Lithgow	...	Judge Walter J. Skinner
Kathleen Quinlan	...	Anne Anderson
Peter Jacobson	...	Neil Jacobs

Mary Mara	...	Kathy Boyer
James Gandolfini	...	Al Love
Stephen Fry	...	Pinder
Dan Hedaya	...	John Riley
David Thornton	...	Richard Aufiero
Sydney Pollack	...	Al Eustis

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Additional Details

MPAA:

Rated PG-13 for some strong language.

Runtime:115 min

Country:[USA](#)

Filming Locations:[Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts, USA](#) [more](#)

[Touchstone Pictures](#) [more](#)

Fun Stuff

Trivia:

[Steven Zaillian](#) adapted the screenplay with nobody else but 'Robert Duvall (I)' in mind for the role of Jerome Facher. [more](#)

Goofs:

Continuity: At the meeting in the hotel where Jan asks for \$300+ million, Cheeseman begins calculating the figures on a pad of paper with his left hand. A cut to an over-the-shoulder shot shows him writing the figures with his right hand. [more](#)

Quotes:

[Al Eustis](#): You've never been here before? What kind of Harvard man are you?

[Jan Schlichtmann](#): The Cornell kind.

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